

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Tom Price (R-GA), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate the Market Access Program

March 10, 2010

Program or Item Targeted: The Market Access Program

One-Year Cost of Program or Item: \$200 Million in FY 2011

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: Market Access Program (MAP) is a mandatory spending program authorized in the Farm Bill and administered by the Foreign Services Department of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It uses funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation to promote the overseas marketing of U.S. agricultural products. MAP funds consumer promotions, market research, trade shows, advertising campaigns, and other programs designed to subsidize the sale of high-value products in foreign markets by private cooperatives, trade associations, and businesses.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: The Market Access Program spends millions of taxpayer dollars annually for advertising and promotion to profitable, private companies. Taxpayers should not be forced to pick up the check for this kind of corporate welfare, especially at a time when the nation's deficit is at unprecedented levels. Amongst other egregious funding, the MAP program has provided funding to the USA Poultry and Egg Expert Council (which includes such profitable companies as Butterball, Tyson, Wampler and Perdue), the U.S. Grains Council (which includes Monsanto), and the MAP granted \$2.1 million to Sunkist Growers, Inc. which had over \$860.5 million in revenues in 2009.

Legislative Steps Taken So Far: Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ) and Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-PA) introduced H.R. 4683, the Scrap the MAP Act, on February 24, 2010. The Scrap the MAP Act has been endorsed by the National Taxpayers Union, Taxpayers for Common Sense, and the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste. If your boss would like to cosponsor H.R. 4683, contact Staci Wheeler at Staci.Wheeler@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail brad.watson@mail.house.gov.

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*